

IN THE CLAIMS

1(currently amended). A test automation framework for testing software applications including:

a memory for storing at least one test scenario including a test application, at least one input and an expected output;

an input selection element means for selecting one or more test scenarios and, for each selected test scenario, selecting how to prepare, run and verify a test application;

a selection memory for storing the results of the input selection element means;

a select element means for selecting a test application according to the contents of the selection memory;

a prepare element means for operating a predetermined prepare process for building the test application according to the results of the input selection element means and storing a log file;

a run element means for operating a predetermined run process for running the test application according to the results of the input selection element means and for storing a log file;

a verify element means for operating a verify process for verifying the results of the test application according to the results of the input selection element means and for storing a log file; and

an output element means for outputting a report of the tests which can include at least extracts of the preparation log file, the run log file and the verify log file if an error occurred.

2(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1, wherein the prepare element means, run element means and verify element means all operate their corresponding processes on a selected application before operating their corresponding processes on the next selected application.

3(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1, wherein the select element means selects each test application in turn for the prepare element means, then each test application in turn for the run element means and then each test application in turn for the verify element means.

4(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:

an element means for performing a sanity check on the results of the input selection element means and, in the case of an error, aborting in all tests and reporting an error.

5(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:

an element means for preparing exit status codes from the prepare process and the run process prior to performing respectively the run process and verify process and for abandoning the respective test when the exit status codes are not OK, wherein the report of the tests can include at least extracts from the log files where the exit status codes were not OK.

6(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:

a prologue element means for operating a predetermined prologue process for a plurality of test applications and storing a log file; wherein

the input selection element means is additionally for selecting how to perform and report the prologue process; and

the report of the tests can include at least extracts of the prologue log file according to the results of the input selection element means.

7(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 6 further comprising:

an element means for preparing an exit status code from the prologue process and abandoning tests when the exit status code is not OK, wherein the report of the tests can include at least extracts from the log files when the exit status code is not OK.

8(original). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:
a mailer for sending the results of the tests to one or more preselected users.

9(original). A method of testing software applications including:

- storing in a memory at least one test scenario including a test application, at least one input and an expected output;
- selecting one or more test scenarios and, for each selected test scenario, selecting how to prepare, run and verify a test application;
- storing the results of the input selection;
- selecting a test application according to the stored results;
- operating a predetermined prepare process for building the test application according to the stored results and storing a log file;
- operating a predetermined run process for running the test application according to the stored results and for storing a log file;
- operating a verify process for verifying the results of the test application according to the stored results and for storing a log file; and
- outputting a report of the tests which can include at least extracts of the preparation log file, the run log file and the verify log file if an error occurred.

10(currently amended). A computer readable storage medium having recorded thereon code components that, when loaded on a computer and executed, will cause that computer to perform the method of ~~operate according to~~ claim 9.